

(c) and (d) Professional Donation of blood has been banned in the country since 1st January, 1998. For generating enough blood through voluntary blood donation programme, the Government of India have taken a number of steps such as media campaign through, TV, AIR and newspapers, developing IEC material for one-to-one communication, observation of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on 1st October every year, encouraging rational use of blood among clinicians and the launching of special campaign to educate masses to support voluntary blood donation. Strict vigilance is being maintained by Drug Controllers of all States to ensure that no paid donation takes place and non unlicensed Blood Banks operate.

Inclusion of AIDS in the Mediclaim Insurance

3081. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering a proposal to include AIDS in the mediclaim insurance coverage policy, as AIDS is an epidemic, in the interest of the unfortunate souls infected by the deadly disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India have reported that the four nationalised insurance companies have no plans to cover AIDS under the mediclaim policy. They have also reported that AIDS is a general exclusion under the health care policies internationally also. The main reasons for the exclusion are:—

1. Difficulty in estimating the cost of treatment.
2. Multifarious ways of manifestation.

[23 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

3. Lack of dependable information on the number of AIDS victims, and
4. Uncertain claims, potential spread of the disease.

AIDS-II Project in Himachal Pradesh

^t3082. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had sanctioned Rs. 395.58 lakhs for implementing AIDS-II project in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Himachal Pradesh has already implemented the project but arrears of Rs. 291.58 lakhs have not been paid to the State by Government and the State Government had also written a letter on 10th December, 1999 for payment of this amount;

(c) if so, the reasons for non-payment of balance amount to the State Government; and

(d) by when it would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The amount of Rs. 395.58 lakhs was sanctioned to Himachal Pradesh for implementation of AIDS-II Project during 1999-2000.

(b) to (d) The State Government had written a letter on 10.12.1999 seeking release of the balance amount. Based on availability of budgetary provisions, a sum of Rs. 318 lakhs was released to Himachal Pradesh during 1999-2000 as under:—

April, 1999	Rs. 60.00 lakhs
September, 1999	Rs. 28.00 lakhs
January, 2000	Rs. 150.00 lakhs
March, 2000	Rs. 80.00 lakhs

Apart from the above, a sum of Rs. 227.50 lakhs has been sanctioned for the year 2000-01 out of which Rs. 227.00 lakhs has been released to Himachal Pradesh during the year.

^tOriginal notice of the Question was received in Hindi.